

WELCOMING PARISH CHOIR AND
CHORISTERS OF ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome the Parish Choir and Choristers of St. Thomas Episcopal Church to our nation's capital.

The choir, along with their Rector, The Rev. Darren R. S. Elin, and music director, Dr. Carlton Monroe, was one of a few Episcopal choirs invited to sing at the National Cathedral this summer, a very distinct honor.

I congratulate these men, women, and children on this special occasion, and I commend them for their service to their community and to God. We are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated people in the Second Congressional District of Ohio.

Again, congratulations to the St. Thomas Church Choir on this well-deserved honor. I wish them the best of luck this weekend and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAL
BODZIANOWSKI

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michal Bodzianowski of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Michal, a sixth grader at STEM High and Academy, is an honorable winner of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education's Student Spaceflight Experiments Program.

Michal's project will explore the creation of beer in microgravity. The project was one of eleven student proposals that were selected to be aboard SpaceX-3 that launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in December of 2013.

His innovative project is currently being executed at the International Space Station by astronauts who are closely following the direction of the young scientist himself. Simultaneously, Michal is conducting the same experiment on the ground to see what differences may arise. We are rooting for the success of Michal's experiment and are certain that it will have pivotal, lasting effects on the evolution of space research.

Michal serves as role model to young scientists. His early dedication and determination to study science and technology is a testament to the American dream and I am proud to represent him in Congress. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Michal Bodzianowski for his achievement of winning the "Student Spaceflight Experiments Program" and successfully launching his experiment into space.

HONORING HOUSTON JEWELRY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Houston Jewelry, a Houston family-owned and operated business since 1866, which has specialized in diamonds and fine jewelry since 1953. A true "Texas Treasure," this jewelry store can trace its history all the way back to the family's general store on Main Street. The Donsky-Solomon family is now in its fifth generation of active management of the business.

The history of this family store mirrors that of Texas itself. What started out as a frontier general store in the young, burgeoning town of Houston, grew and matured to become one of "America's Best Couture Jewelers" and a multiple winner of the Better Business Bureau of Houston's Award for Excellence. Like the city of Houston, from humble beginnings, the store owned by the Donsky-Solomon family has now earned national and international recognition. From the sale of staple and fancy dry goods to fine jewelry through catalog and online sales, each generation has enhanced the business it inherited. Weathering storms, economic busts, and national depressions, Houston Jewelry has been a steadfast testament to the power of determination, innovation, and family bonds. Their contributions to Houston are unquestioned, and I wish them continued success.

FAREWELL REMARKS FOR AMBASSADOR
TATOU MARKARIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Ambassador Tatoul Markarian for his service as the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States.

A distinguished diplomat, the Ambassador has a long career in public service, having represented the people of Armenia both at home and around the world. Prior to his current position, he served as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Special Representative of the President of Armenia for Nagorno Karabakh negotiations and as Ambassador to the Mexican States. Additionally, he served previously from 1994–1999 as the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Armenian Embassy in Washington.

Before entering the Armenian Foreign Service, Ambassador Markarian served in the newly-independent Armenia's legislative and executive branches.

I am proud of the work we have been able to accomplish together while Ambassador Markarian has been stationed in Washington for the last nine years. Together, we have fought together for Congressional Recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and foreign aid assistance to both the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Armenia. As the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I have had the honor of working

closely on these issues for more than twenty years.

Today, the U.S.-Armenian relationship remains critically important. Armenia has been a crucial ally in a strategic region of the world by extending robust support for the U.S.-led peacekeeping deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo. Additionally, they have cooperated with the United States on a broad range of regional and security challenges. This relationship has been stewarded and advanced by Ambassador Markarian during his time in Washington.

Ambassador Markarian has dedicated his life's work to our shared goals and the people of Armenia. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to him for his service here in the United States and offer both him and his family the best of luck as they move forward on to their next diplomatic posting.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
LOGAN, WEST VIRGINIA, AS A
PURPLE HEART CITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on this, the eve of the anniversary of American Independence, it is fitting that we recognize not only the role of the founders in freedom's birthplace, Philadelphia, but that we salute those who have, ever since that declaration of freedom in 1776, fought in battle after battle and in war after war to secure our freedoms. On that day of days celebrating America's freedoms, like all days when freedom reigns, we should honor those who have so selflessly served and made such extraordinary personal sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, more than a year before independence was declared, General George Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. His leadership was born of our War for Independence, and, to this day, General Washington remains a revered figure for the soldier in the field. And for so many reasons, the General still warmly resides in America's hearts and minds. Among our Nation's highest honors stands one enjoying almost universal recognition and holding a distinguished reverence by those both inside and outside the ranks of our dedicated military services. Its pedigree stretches back to the legendary commitment General Washington had made to his troops.

Above all, the Purple Heart symbolizes the sacrifice made freely for this country, given for each of us and for future generations. Here in our Nation's Capital on the office wall of West Virginia's Third Congressional District hangs one of my most cherished recognitions, a citation from the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America recognizing my service to the Order. Each year, I am honored to welcome West Virginia members of the Order to my office and to discuss with them issues of importance.

Many times I have had the high honor of presenting the Purple Heart to my fellow West Virginians. Without exception, they are as humble in accepting this award as they were meritorious in their actions for which it was granted. Here, Mr. Speaker, is found the true heart of the American character.

In the heart of the Appalachian Coalfields, in the heart of Logan County, West Virginia, its County Seat, the City of Logan, has been rightly proclaimed "A Purple Heart City." Through the decades and by the thousands, the men and women of this patriotic town and from throughout this county have freely enlisted their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to further the cause begun with the "shot heard 'round the World."

The Proclamation honors the service and sacrifice of those who have received a Purple Heart. Our service men and women and veterans, many of whom are honorably represented by Logan's Chapter 733 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, are revered by the citizens of the City of Logan and those in the County at large.

The great cost, the blood lost, will never have been in vain within these city limits. Mr. Speaker, the honor and respect paid to those in uniform and those now in the ranks of our veterans is supreme and as about as united as you are going to get in these United States of America.

As Logan Mayor Serafino J. Nolletti's Proclamation states, "the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from the City of Logan who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens."

Nor, Mr. Speaker, does the service to our Nation end for the West Virginia veteran with his muster out pay. Not by any stretch of the imagination. Our veterans continue to contribute to their community through their faithful work in their churches and service within the many charitable organizations to which they belong. Their selfless work is the mortar that so securely binds our Republic together.

That most certainly includes the dedicated commitment of the officers of Chapter 733: Charles Baisden, Commander; Troy Varney, Senior Vice Commander; Charles Frye, Finance Officer; and Larry Thompson, Sergeant at Arms.

In creating the military honor that preceded today's Purple Heart, General Washington issued an order that closed with these words: "The road to glory in a patriot army and free country is thus open to all." Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, if the veterans and Purple Heart recipients in Logan, West Virginia, have any say in the matter, and I assure you they will, the road to glory will always be open to all in a free United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REVEREND DR. SHELLIE SAMPSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 28, 2014, the Baptist Ministers' Conference of New York & Vicinity led by President Reverend James D. Morrison paid tribute to late Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson, who presided over the conference as president until his untimely passing, which occurred on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 20, 2014.

It is with great honor that I am able to say that Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson was a true disciple of the Lord and messenger of the

word. He combined the power of education with the power of divinity to manifest perfection and excellence. Dr. Sampson earned it the old fashion way, because he was led by God and destined to lead others. The Book of Proverbs, Chapter 16, Verse 9 states, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Biblically literate and centered, Dr. Sampson brought down the walls of Jericho, and removed all the obstacles by raising and developing his leadership through ongoing training and learning at the highest level. Book of John, Chapter 13, Verses 13–17 also states, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

Reverend Dr. Sampson was guided by these teachings during his 30 years of pastoral service to Thessalonía Baptist Church and his devoted leadership to the Baptist Ministers' Conference of New York and Vicinity. Therefore, it is our firm belief that the Creator sets a clear path for each of us to follow, and the path paved by Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson, Jr. will allow so many to benefit from his commitments. Great men like our beloved husband, father, grandfather and Pastor are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their assistance, contributions and accomplishments will be far remembered and everlasting and define him as a true patriot of an American Dream well lived.

I am including into the RECORD Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson's obituary which was read during his Going Home Services.

Shellie Sampson was born on December 15, 1940 in the central region of Newark, New Jersey. As the eldest of three children to the late Shellie Sampson and Lillian Brinson, he placed a high value on education and led a life characterized by profound spiritual insight, hard work, tenacity, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. While growing up in Newark, he took advantage of the opportunities before him and used his resources to become a man of distinction who would leave an enduring legacy.

Shellie Sampson graduated from Central High School with honors in science, history, music, and distance running. He went on to attend Rutgers University dual majoring in chemistry and natural science before earning a Bachelor's of Arts in natural science. He worked diligently even while being one of few Black Americans to attend Rutgers. During a time of tumultuousness and racial upheaval, he persevered in spite of discrimination from professors and hostility towards African Americans. Following his bachelor's degree, assured of the unquestionable spiritual call upon his life, he attended Drew University where he earned a Master's of Divinity and a Doctorate in Ministry of Christian Education. At the same time that he was yielding to the spiritual call, there was an equally great intellectual fervor continuing to grow within him. He was accepted to New York University where he pursued Urban Studies and all coursework leading to a doctorate degree. After the program had been eliminated, he transferred to Temple University where he gained far beyond what he imagined. Choosing to start from the beginning of his doctorate, he was able to

study the latest research that would provide him with the tools he needed to produce his own original, cutting-work. Dr. Sampson gained mastery in areas beyond his particular discipline, integrating Urban Studies, Psychology, Black Studies, History, Sociology, and Education. In 2007, at 66 years old he had completed coursework for his third doctorate and earned a Ph.D. in Urban Education and Psychology. Within the University, some of the most highly esteemed scholars commented that they were astounded by the depth of his intellectual contributions to fields that were not his own. His departments began his dissertation as the model for all subsequent doctoral theses and asked him to provide a list of every title in his personal library at home. Based on his inquiries and insights, additional courses were added to the curriculum to further enhance the program. These accolades were in addition to seminars he attended at MIT and Princeton University.

Not only was Dr. Sampson a man of keen spiritual insight and intellectual prowess, but he had an unwavering commitment to his high school sweetheart. At age 15, he met Deloranzo Paschal at Central High School, and after looking up her academic records in the school office, he determined that she was the kind of woman that he wanted to date. For their first date, he took her to see the "The Ten Commandments," and was then certain that they shared a common vision and passion for God. As their love blossomed, he proposed to her and even waited while she pursued her dream of entering military service as Air Force personnel. In 1960, they were married in Bloomfield. They have six sons and three daughters. Dr. Sampson was a devoted father who worked tirelessly to provide his family with the best education, well-rounded extracurricular activities and diverse life experiences: Above all else, he taught them that God and education were the keys to success. Because of his ambitions and standards of excellence, his family now includes leaders in the following fields: educational leadership, pastoral visionary, law, counseling, civil service, music conducting, early childhood, elementary and higher education, public relations, veterinary medicine, public health, medical assistance, chemical engineering, cross cultural studies, computer engineering, fashion marketing, animal science, communications, media and music technology and performance.

The success that Dr. Sampson's family achieved is the result of the hand of God upon his life. It began when he accepted Christ in his heart while playing the organ as a teenager. At the risk of embarrassing his pastor, he was honest with himself and with God, responding to the altar call because he wanted to know God as his Lord and Savior. From that very moment, Dr. Sampson yielded to the Holy Spirit and began to center his life on his newfound spiritual identity from church activities, to vacation, to times of prayer with his family. He tenaciously pursued his purpose until January 20, 2014 when the Lord called him home.

He was blessed to have an impeccable academic record but also to have an impressive career as a chemist for Theobald Industries. He also worked as a microbiologist at Best Foods International and a Technological Supervisor in Packaging Engineering—Quality Control for Anheuser Busch. In most of his positions, he was one of few, if not the only African American working in the company. Although he frequently met with racial opposition, when he traded his career as a chemist for Anheuser Busch for the call of preparing people for God's Kingdom, the company was disappointed to see him go and promised him a job and benefits if he ever wanted to return. There was no question, as